

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051  
Minority (202) 225-5074

April 10, 2009

Ms. Kathie A. Whipple  
Acting Director  
Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Ms. Whipple:

We are writing to express our concern over recent reports that security clearance checks performed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and affiliated contractors may have been falsified. As you may know, the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia has jurisdiction over federal government information security and issues relating to the federal workforce.

According to an article that appeared in the *Washington Post* on April 9, 2009, Assistant U.S. Attorney Ellen Chubin Epstein was quoted as saying, "This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed". Ms. Epstein further stated that such lax investigations "can pose a serious risk to national security."

Given that OPM handles over 90 percent of the background reviews performed on potential federal employees, these reports are obviously of grave concern to the Subcommittee. To this end, we are requesting that OPM provide a formal briefing to the Subcommittee that is to include the aforementioned allegations as well as any actions OPM has taken to correct the problem. We are requesting that the briefing be conducted either during the week of April 27, 2009 or the week of May 4, 2009.

Please contact William Miles on the Subcommittee's Democratic Staff at 202-225-5147 or Alex Cooper on the Subcommittee's Republican staff at 202-225-5074 to schedule an exact date and time for holding the briefing.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Chairman

  
Jason Chaffetz  
Ranking Member